



Requirements and Capabilities of US Public Health Laboratories Experiencing Measles Outbreaks

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APHL VPD Reference Centers for Measles Testing

All specimens should be directed to the public health laboratory in the patient's state of residence. Commercial laboratories should not send to the APHL VPD Reference Centers unless otherwise directed. APHL VPD Reference Centers include:

- California VRDL (CA SPHL)
- Minnesota Department of Health Public Health Lab (MN SPHL)
- New York State Wadsworth Center
- Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (WI SPHL)

These laboratories may:

- Perform genotyping
- Perform MeVA real-time assay or working to bring up the test.

More Information

- [APHL VPD Reference Center Testing Resources Guide](#)
- [Measles Commercial Laboratory Guidance](#)
- [APHL Vaccine Preventable Disease webpage](#)

State-level Requirements for Measles Submission

State	Assigned Reference Center	Measles Virus PCR / Serology Testing Available?	For Measles Vaccine Assay (to distinguish vaccine strain)	Notification of Positive Result Protocol	Timeframe for Shipment of Specimens
Arizona	CA SPHL	Yes	Performs in-house	Any suspected case should be reported to the AZ Department of Health Services Communicable Disease Division within 24 hours and prior to testing; Notification of positive results sent via ELR	Weekly, submission of positive specimens is required in state statute Within 24 hours after obtaining the positive test result
California	CA SPHL	Yes	Performs in-house	Any suspected case should be reported to the Communicable Disease Branch of the local health department immediately by phone prior to testing; Notification of positive results sent via ELR	Within 48 hours of a positive result

State	Assigned Reference Center	Measles Virus PCR / Serology Testing Available?	For Measles Vaccine Assay (to distinguish vaccine strain)	Notification of Positive Result Protocol	Timeframe for Shipment of Specimens
Florida	NY Wadsworth	Yes	Sends to assigned reference center	Any initial suspicion or laboratory test order receipt should be notified via phone/fax notification the Florida Health Department immediately	Weekly; Health department will initiate request via phone call upon receipt of a positive result
Maryland	Not currently enrolled	Yes	Performs in-house	Suspected cases and laboratory evidence of measles must be submitted immediately to the applicable local health officer; “immediate” reporting requires direct communication (telephone or in person)	Positive specimens are submitted by request
North Carolina	WI SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center; Validation in progress	Any suspected case should be reported to the local health department immediately by phone and before testing. Subsequently, to the NC Department of Health and Human Services Communicable Disease Branch	Weekly submission of PCR positives; no need for serology submission
North Dakota	MN SPHL	Limited capacity	Sends to assigned Reference Center	Report results to ND Health and Human Services immediately	Weekly submission of PCR positives; Submission of positive specimen is required in state statute
Ohio	WI SPHL	Yes	Performs in-house	Any positive laboratory result for measles should be reported immediately via telephone to the local public health department in which the patient resides. If patient residence is unknown, report immediately via telephone to the local public health department in which the reporting healthcare provider or laboratory is located.	The state does not have a set policy
South Carolina	NY Wadsworth	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center, validation in progress	Any suspected case should be reported to the regional health department immediately by phone; positive results should be reported via ELR within 24 hours	Within 24 hours of positive result early in an outbreak; Submission of positive specimens is required in state statute
Texas	MN SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center, validation in progress	Positive results reported into the Department of State Health Services NEDSS reporting application and should be called in immediately ; the health department will reach out to request specimens	Within 48 hours of positive result

State	Assigned Reference Center	Measles Virus PCR / Serology Testing Available?	For Measles Vaccine Assay (to distinguish vaccine strain)	Notification of Positive Result Protocol	Timeframe for Shipment of Specimens
Utah	CA SPHL	Yes	Uses sequence data to obtain vaccine strain; performs in house	Any suspected case should be <u>reported within 24 hours</u> by phone and before testing; state laboratory will reach out to coordinate specimen submission	Within 48 hours of positive result; <u>submission of positive specimens is required in state statute</u>
Virginia	WI SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center; Validation in progress	Measles is a rapidly reportable condition, any suspected case should be <u>immediately reported to the local health department</u>	Within 48 hours of a positive result
Washington	MN SPHL	Yes	Sends to assigned Reference Center, validation in progress	Any suspected case should be reported immediately to <u>Local Health Jurisdiction</u> by phone	Within 48 hours of positive results early in an outbreak; <u>Submission of positive specimens is required in state statute</u>
Wisconsin	WI SPHL	Yes	Performs in-house	Any suspected case should be reported to WI SPHL immediately by phone	Within 48 hours of a positive PCR result; serology positives are not required

*Additional questions about results reporting can be directed to the [Epi-on-call Phone Numbers](#) maintained by the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

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